

Goodwin Elementary Announcements & Events

Notices for 3/27/15

- *Good News from Goodwin*
- *Bus Transportation Update*
- *Yearbook Order Reminder- deadline April 18th*
- *Square1Art Reminder-deadline April 6th*
- *Early Childhood Forum hosted by Mansfield
Advocates for Children April 10th*
- *Goodwin School's Combined Spring Concert and
Art Show Wednesday May13th*
- *Goodwin's Annual Fun Fair "Big Whale Bash" May
16th*

- *Preschool Screenings for the 2015-2016 School Year*

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Good News from Goodwin

ISSUE 7

APRIL 2015

Dear Families of Goodwin:

While spring didn't start as we had all hoped after the coldest February on record, still it is nice to see some of the signs come upon us...crocuses, the sight of grass instead of snow, no more icicles hanging from our roofs, wider roads, robins, longer days, and students playing outside again. Only more good things to look forward to at Goodwin as our trees foliage returns and the days continue to get warmer.

More Good News from Goodwin:

- Our Blue Ribbon Application based upon our nomination by Commissioner Stephan Pryor has been completed and we await their decision in August. I want to once again thank all those who put many long hours into fact finding, writing, and editing and revising our application. Thank you to Cassandra Martineau, Judy Quinn, Janet LaMarre, Terry Fers, Kelly Allen, Sally Clark, Anne Wiant-Rudd, Janet Pagoni, Rick O'Donnell, Christina Thompson, Shamim Patwa, Barbara Mellone, Kristin Zadnik, Mary Mohan, Michelle Strauss and Veronica Barcelona for their time and effort.
- We would like to wish Mrs. DePercio well with the upcoming addition to her family. She and Mrs. Hodge will be back later this year. We welcome Mrs. McLaren and Mrs. Core to our school community in their absence.
- We are currently preparing for our state tests which will take place in May.
- **Principal Coffee and Conversation will take place on Friday, April 10th from 8:30 to 9:00 am** in the conference room. This would be a time for you to come in and chat, ask questions, or listen to what is happening in our school. We will provide coffee and pastry and discuss the Blue Ribbon process, Common Core Standards, Smarter Balance Assessments, budget, and answer questions to anything else that is on your mind.

Helpful Home/School Connections:

- Good readers form mental pictures as they read. To improve your child's comprehension, read a book without letting your child see it. Then ask your child to guess what the illustrations look like. Ex. How are the characters dressed? Is the setting bright or gloomy?

Warmly, Susan

Upcoming Events

4/3-Good Friday-No School

4/7 Kindergarten Parent Orientation 6-7 pm

4/8-PTO Meeting 6:30

4/9-Board Of Ed Meeting 7:30

4/10- Principal's Coffee and Conversation 8:30 am

4/13-4/17-Spring Vacation

4/21 -Grd 4 Enrichment School Play 2:30-3:15

4/27-5/1- Scholastic Book Fair & TV Turn Off Week

4/28 Science Fair 6:30-7:30

4/30-Town Meeting 2:30 pm



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Richard W. Kisiel, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent

Audrey P. Beck Building
Four South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268
Phone: (860) 429-3350
Fax: (860) 429-3379

March 30, 2015

Dear Parents,

At the last Board of Education meeting, I shared my report on the problems with bus transportation and possible action steps to correct the late bus arrivals in the morning and late departures in the afternoon. While the weather and road conditions this winter have extended some of the run times, the delays have existed throughout the year and in past years.

A recent analysis of bus arrival and departure times showed that bus arrival times at the schools are very close to the start of the school day when students should actually be in their seat ready to learn. The delayed departure times in the afternoon are more problematic. School buses depart from schools fifteen to seventeen minutes after the end of the school day.

We attribute the bus delays to management and general operational problems including the availability of regular and substitute drivers. In addition, changes in bus routes over the years largely driven by parent requests and decreases in the number of buses have created some loss of efficiency in bus run times. The district cannot solve the bus company's difficulty in attracting new and substitute drivers. However, we will continue to fine Durham School Services \$500/day for each day the company fails to provide the sixteen buses under contract. The district has one year left on its contract with Durham School Services.

In my report to the Board, I suggested the district could take the following short and long term action to help mitigate the bus run delays:

- (1) Immediately improve the efficiency of bus departures from E. O. Smith High School in the afternoon;
- (2) Redo all bus routes next school year and only authorize changes in bus stops to eliminate any safety hazard;
- (3) Reduce next school year the number of buses entering and turning around in cul-de-sacs;
- (4) Review and update as necessary the Board of Education transportation policies; and
- (5) Develop next year bid specifications to seek competitive bids for a new bus contract.

The Board has requested an additional update on bus transportation at its next meeting on April 9th. The Board and I recognize how disruptive and inconvenient these bus delays are for families, children, and employees. Thank you for your patience as we work to resolve this problem.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Kisiel Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

**Order your yearbook online until
April 18th**

ybpay.lifetouch.com

school code 11689615

OR

**Send in your order form to school
by April 10th**

meghan.silliman@gmail.com with questions

ORDERS DUE

4 / 6

ACCESS CODES FROM PREVIOUS ART
STILL WORK (IF YOU WANT TO REPLACE
A BROKEN CUP FOR EXAMPLE ☺)

Why Wait? Order Now!

TRAVEL MUG



for the office

SPORTS BAG



wear it

MATTED PRINT



for the home

TURN IN YOUR ORDER TO:

ORDER ONLINE / BY PHONE / ON PAPER
QUESTIONS? EMAIL ME! KATHLEENPEIRSMAN
@GMAIL.COM

**Order your child's artwork on useful
products that will be cherished for years**

Early Childhood Forum

Mansfield Advocates for Children is hosting an **Early Childhood Forum** where Parents and Caregivers can learn about Mansfield Advocates for Children and have an opportunity to ask questions about early childhood issues and give feedback in an informal setting!

For the children, we will be hosting *Jumpstart for A Day!* Kids from birth to eight will work with AmeriCorps college students in stations to experience readings of some of our core storybooks, participate in intentionally educational activities, and enjoy center time activities.

Jumpstart
Children first.™

When:

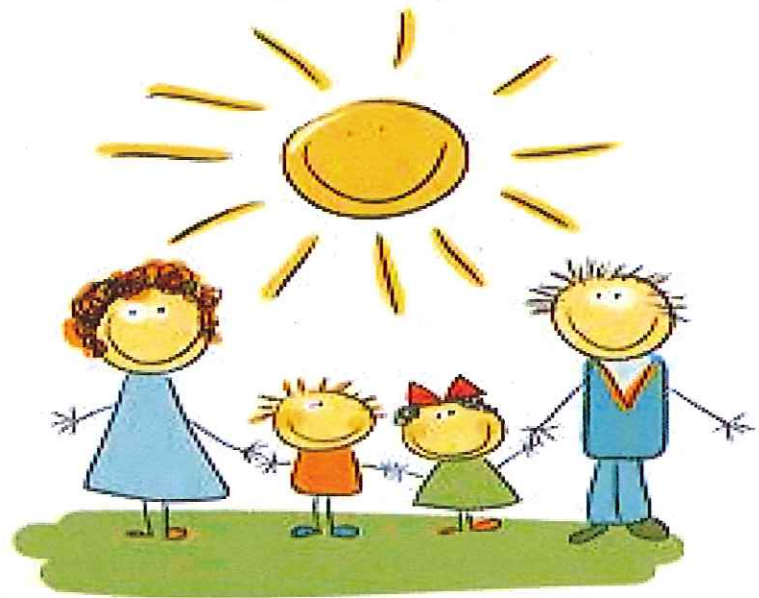
April 10th, 2015

Time:

4:00pm-6:00pm

Where:

Mansfield
Community Center



University of Connecticut
Department of Student Activities
Office of Community Outreach
2110 Hillside Road Unit 3008
Storrs, CT 06269-3008
Phone: 860-486-4667
www.jstart.org

Mansfield Advocates for Children

Phone: 860-429-3338

andersonsd@mansfieldct.org

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SAVE THE DATE

You are cordially invited to join us for an evening
to celebrate and appreciate the fine arts at Goodwin School

WHO: Goodwin families

WHAT: A combined Spring Concert and Art Show

WHEN: Wednesday, May 13, 2015 (3rd and 4th grades)**

Thursday, May 14, 2015 (Kindergarten-2nd grade)**

**Both evenings, students should arrive at 6:45 pm for a 7:00 pm start

WHERE: The Goodwin cafeteria

Students will be performing music from around the globe,
and their art works will be displayed throughout the halls.
Please come enjoy the fruits of your children's hard work!





BIG WHALE BASH

GOODWIN'S ANNUAL FUN FAIR

Saturday, May 16, 2015 11am-3pm

The **Big Whale Bash** is the new name for the long time tradition of



Goodwin's end of year fun fair. (It's even mentioned in the school song! 🎵🎵🎵)

The fun fair is not only a time honored Goodwin tradition, it is the **PTO's largest fund raiser**.

The children look forward to the fun fair every year!

Please support this event by volunteering your time. No amount of time is too small!

Committee Members: Committee members are needed to help coordinate fair activities. The amount of time needed from each committee member varies. First committee meeting to be held in the next two weeks. All offers of help are accepted!!!

Volunteers: Volunteers are needed the day of the fair, as well as over the next six weeks to help with special projects. People with artistic talents and basic woodworking skills are needed for assistance with signage and new game construction.

If you are interested in receiving more information about how you can help, please contact **The Big Whale Bash** chair, Christine Jeffers.

Committee Members Needed

Games

Food

Tickets

Raffles

Events

Volunteer Coord.

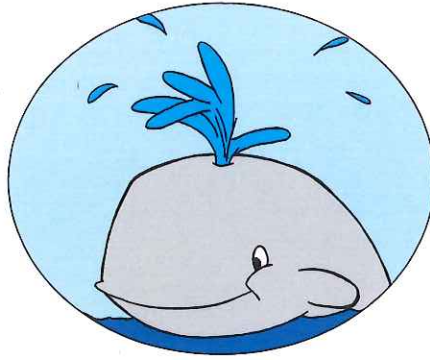
Advertising

Volunteers Needed

Parents,
grandparents,
aunts, uncles,
cousins, older
siblings, friends,
and neighbors ...
they all make
great volunteers!

CONTACT:

Christine Jeffers
christine.jeffers@live.com
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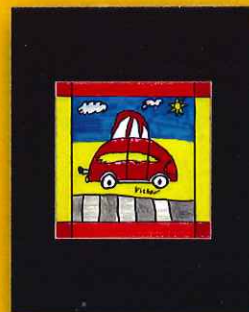
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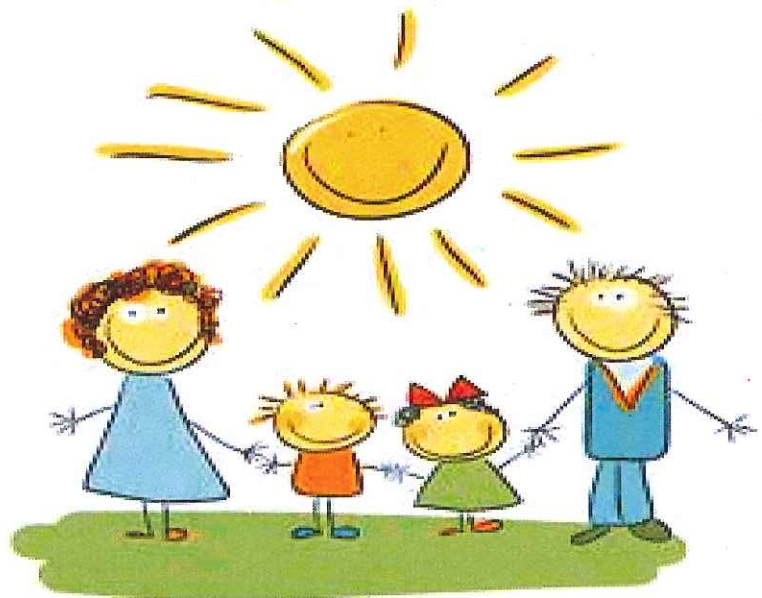
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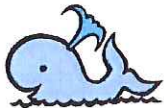


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Food
Tickets
Raffles
Events
Volunteer Coord.
Advertising

Volunteers Needed

Parents,
grandparents,
aunts, uncles,
cousins, older
siblings, friends,
and neighbors ...
they all make
great volunteers!

CONTACT:

Christine Jeffers
christine.jeffers@live.com
(860)367-1537



Preschool Screenings for 2015-2016 School Year

**The Mansfield Public Schools district
is conducting screenings for
three and four year old children
eligible for preschool for
the 2015-2016 school year.**

**Children need to be age three by the first
day of school, (August 27, 2015) in order
to be eligible for this screening.**

**You need to make an appointment
in order to have your child screened.**

Dates of 2015 Screenings

May 27, 28, & 29th

Location

**Buchanan Auditorium,
at the Mansfield Public Library,
54 Warrenville Rd (Route 89).**

**Call your local school to set an
appointment on one of these dates!**

**Goodwin Elementary (860) 429-6316
Southeast Elementary (860) 423-1611
Vinton Elementary (860) 423-3086**